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Meet Martyn Lloyd-Jones

An outstanding Harley Street doctor at the age of 25, assistant to the King's physician and friend of the rich and famous, he gave it all up to become a preacher of the gospel. By the time of his death in 1981, Martyn Lloyd-Jones had occupied one of the most influential pulpits in London for thirty years, and his sermons—both preached and printed—had changed the spiritual direction of thousands across the world.

His brilliant mind and exceptional skill had ensured him a successful medical career, and therefore his decision to give up medicine and become a preacher caused no small stir in the country. From high class society he moved to a small mission situation in a deprived area of South Wales and over the next ten years saw hundreds of lives remarkably changed under his preaching. Lloyd-Jones became a national figure in Wales during the 1930s and helped to keep Christianity alive, particularly in the industrial areas.

Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, he was called to assist Campbell Morgan in London at Westminster

Chapel—only a short distance from Buckingham Palace. The ravages of war reduced the congregation of nearly two thousand to a few hundred, but Lloyd-Jones continued to preach in spite of the bombs that fell. After the war, Sunday congregations rose to around two thousand, both morning and evening, until his retirement in 1968.

The influence of Martyn Lloyd-Jones spread far and wide, particularly in the student world, and he was in great demand not only throughout the United Kingdom but in Europe, Canada, South Africa and the USA. Those who heard and respected him included C.S. Lewis and the eminent Cambridge historian, G.M. Trevelyan. Clergymen of all denominations sought his advice and hundreds of students and young pastors found their minds and ministries moulded by his powerful preaching and persuasive wisdom. The largest halls in the land could not hold the people who gathered to hear him. Yet for all this, he shunned publicity and declined an honour from the Queen.

Lloyd-Jones continued to preach until shortly before his death in 1981. At his



Above: Martyn Lloyd-Jones in the 1970s

Thanksgiving Service, Westminster Chapel was filled to capacity when over 3,000 people remembered with affection the life and ministry of this humble man who had touched their lives for the better. His sermons continue to be widely published and have been translated into

many languages. They have even attracted scholarly attention resulting in a number of PhD theses. To mark the centenary of his birth, the National Library of Wales mounted an impressive exhibition of books, letters, photographs and videos.

